

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 15131 290850Z
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MARR, RP
SUBJECT: STUDY ON US BASES OVERSEAS - WASHINGTON PAPERS,
- NO. 47

1. "TIMES JOURNAL" OF AUGUST 26 CARRIES ARTICLE ENTITLED
"WHY US CLINGS ON TO BASES IN RP" WRITTEN BY JOSE GUERRERO.
(GUERRERO IS ASSISTANT SECRETARY IN THE OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANT FOR NATIONAL MINORITIES AND A
FORMER AFP LIEUTENANT COLONEL.)

2. ARTICLE IS WOVEN AROUND WHAT ARE PURPORTED TO BE
CONCLUSIONS OF RECENT POLICY STUDY ENTITLED "THE WASHING-
TON PAPERS, NO. 47 - US OVERSEAS BASES: PROBLEMS OF PRO-
JECTING AMERICAN MILITARY POWER ABROAD." RETIRED ADMIRAL
THOMAS MOORER IS IDENTIFIED AS A PROPONENT OF THE STUDY.
AMONG THE IMPORTANT CONCLUSIONS OF THE STUDY, ACCORDING TO
GUERRERO, ARE THE FOLLOWING:

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- A) GIVEN THE IMPORTANCE OF (US) OVERSEAS BASES AND
- FACILITIES TO EFFICIENTLY PROJECT A CREDIBLE
- MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC, THE
- MILITARY BASING COMPLEX OF THE US IN THE PHILIPPINES
- IS CONSIDERED THE MOST STRATEGIC IN THE ENTIRE
- PACIFIC AREA.

- B) NONE OF THE EXISTING US BASES IN JAPAN INCLUDING
- OKINAWA, AUSTRALIA, GUAM AND THE MARIANAS COULD
- EVER SUBSTITUTE FOR THE AMERICAN MILITARY BASES
- IN THE PHILIPPINES AS "FALLBACK POSITIONS."

- C) THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THE US PRESENT-
- LY MAINTAINS HER BASES IN THE PHILIPPINES ARE
- GROSSLY ONEROUS WHEN COMPARED TO HER OTHER BASING
- FACILITIES IN OTHER COUNTRIES. "THE UNITED STATES
- HAS ENJOYED VIRTUAL SOVEREIGNTY OVER ITS FACILITIES
- WITH FEW CONSTRAINTS BY THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT,"
- ..."THIS STANDS IN CONTRAST TO THE SITUATION IN
- JAPAN WHERE US BASES ARE SUBJECT TO NUMEROUS
- CONSTRAINTS ON THEIR OPERATIONS (PARTICULARLY WITH
- RESPECT TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS) BY THE HOST GOVERN-
- MENT."

- D) THE US CAN NEVER FIND A SATISFACTORY SUBSTITUTE FOR
- THE PHILIPPINES AS A FORWARD STRONGPOINT FOR PRO-
- JECTING HER MILITARY POWER IN THE PACIFIC BASIN.

- E) THE NATURE AND CHARACTER OF THE AMERICAN BASES IN
- THE PHILIPPINES COULD CHANGE SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE
- NEAR FUTURE. THIS IS BASED ON THE CURRENT DEMANDS
- OF THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT SPECIFICALLY ON THE
- ISSUE OF SOVEREIGNTY WHICH WOULD VIRTUALLY PLACE
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- US BASES UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PHILIPPINE
- GOVERNMENT. "TOO MANY CONCESSIONS TO THE PHILIP-
- PINE GOVERNMENT MAY MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO
- OPERATE EFFECTIVELY FROM THE BASES." IN THIS
- RESPECT, "THERE EXISTS NO SATISFACTORY ALTERNATIVE
- TO THE US BASING COMPLEX IN THE PHILIPPINES."

- F) ANY PLAN BY THE US TO BEGIN DEVELOPING FALLBACK
- POSITIONS IN GUAM AND THE MARIANAS FOR ITS PRESENT
- BASES IN JAPAN AND THE PHILIPPINES WOULD ONLY
- SERVE TO EXACERBATE RELATIONS WITH THOSE TWO KEY
- COUNTRIES.

- G) THE DETERIORATION IN THE US OVERSEAS BASE STRUCTURE
- HAS BEEN WORLDWIDE BUT NOWHERE HAS IT BEEN MORE
- DRASTIC THAN IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC.

- H) THE US, AS IT CROSSES THE THRESHOLD OF THE LAST
- QUARTER OF THE 20TH CENTURY, MUST REJECT THE IDEA
- OF FURTHER ALLOWING EROSION OF HER ACCESS TO
- PRESENT OVERSEAS FACILITIES IF IT IS TO MAINTAIN
- HER VIABLE POSITION AS A WORLD POWER.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON
REFERENCED STUDY -- WHO DID IT? WHEN? WHAT IMPACT HAS IT
HAD IN POLICY-MAKING COMMUNITY? (IS THIS THE STUDY IN
WHICH COTTRELL (CSIS) COLLABORATED WITH ADM MOORER?)
WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING COPY OF STUDY BY POUCH. MURPHY

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Message Attributes

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